

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ASSEMBLING A CUSHION
INTO AN AIR BAG MODULE**

5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The subject invention is an apparatus and method for installing a cushion into a cover to provide for a uniform and consistent thickness of cushion between an inflator/horn assembly and the cover such that variation in the amount of force applied to the cover is minimized. The apparatus for installing the cushion to the cover includes a base for supporting the cover, a housing defining a cavity and having an upper and a lower platform, an air bag housing and a mock inflator attached to a piston. The method includes the steps of attaching the cushion assembly to a mock inflator, securing the cover, compacting the cushion into the cover and around the mock inflator, such that the cushion fills the cavity of the cover; then removing the mock inflator from the cushion to form a cavity within the cushion for the inflator/horn assembly.